

A status report on Part D

ISSUE: Medicare’s outpatient prescription drug benefit is about to enter its sixth year of operation. In this session, staff will provide information on beneficiaries’ access to medications, program costs, and quality measures currently used for Part D.

KEY POINTS: We will review information about the numbers of stand-alone and Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans participating in Part D for 2011 and the types of benefit designs they offer, the number of plans with premiums at or below the regional thresholds for low-income premium subsidies, and trends in the aggregate spending levels for Part D. We will also discuss some of the changes in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to Part D.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on the scope and substance of this analysis.

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